

Cardiac Pacemakers and Defibrillators

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Related Benefit Interpretation Policy

- [Durable Medical Equipment DME, Prosthetics, Corrective Appliances/Orthotics Non-Foot Orthotics and Medical Supplies Grid](#)

Federal/State Mandated Regulations

None

State Market Plan Enhancements

None

Covered Benefits

Important Note: Covered benefits are listed in *Federal/State Mandated Regulations*, *State Market Plan Enhancements*, and *Covered Benefits* sections. Always refer to the *Federal/State Mandated Regulations* and *State Market Plan Enhancements* sections for additional covered services/benefits not listed in this section.

- **Cardiac Pacemakers (single-chamber or dual chamber)**, when medical criteria are met.
 For medical necessity clinical coverage criteria, refer to the InterQual® CP: Procedures:
 - Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD) Insertion
 - Pacemaker Insertion
 - Pacemaker Insertion, Biventricular
 - Pacemaker Insertion, Biventricular + Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD) Insertion

Click [here](#) to view the InterQual® criteria.

- **Cardiac Pacemaker monitoring**
 - Self-contained Pacemaker monitors may be covered when prescribed by the treating physician for a member with a Cardiac Pacemaker
 - Digital electronic Pacemaker monitor provides the member with an instantaneous digital readout of his Pacemaker pulse rate. Use of this device does not involve professional services until there has been a change of five pulses (or more) per minute above or below the initial rate of the Pacemaker; when such change occurs, the member contacts his physician.

- Audible/visible signal Pacemaker monitor produces an audible and visible signal which indicates the Pacemaker rate. Use of this device does not involve professional services until a change occurs in these signals; at such time, the member contacts his physician.

Note: The design of the self-contained Pacemaker monitor makes it possible for the member to monitor his Pacemaker periodically and minimizes the need for regular visits to the outpatient department of the provider.

- Trans-telephonic cardiac Pacemaker monitoring
 - Limited to lithium battery powered Pacemakers
 - Trans-telephonic cardiac monitoring may be done by:
 - Member’s physician
 - Outside entity-requires an annually renewed physician’s prescription and may include:
 - Commercial monitoring service
 - Hospital outpatient department
 - Pacemaker clinic
 - Frequency of monitoring
 - Responsibility of member’s physician to determine frequency
 - Trans-telephonic cardiac monitoring must consist of the following:
 - Minimum 30 second readable strip of the pacemaker in the free running mode
 - Unless contraindicated, a minimum 30 second readable strip of the pacemaker in the magnetic mode
 - Minimum 30 seconds of readable ECG/EKG strip

- **Implantable Automatic Defibrillators**
- **Automatic External Defibrillators**

Not Covered

Cardiac Pacemakers, Cardiac Pacemaker monitoring, or Automatic Defibrillators when criteria are not met.

Definitions

Implantable Automatic Defibrillator (ICD): An ICD is a battery-powered device placed under the skin that keeps track of your heart rate. Thin wires connect the ICD to your heart. If an abnormal heart rhythm is detected the device will deliver an electric shock to restore a normal heartbeat.

Pacemaker: A small battery-operated device that helps the heart beat in a regular rhythm. Traditional pacemakers have three parts: a generator, wires (leads) and sensors (electrodes). Some newer pacemakers are wireless.

References

American Heart Association. “Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD)”. www.heart.org, [Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator \(ICD\) | American Heart Association](#). Accessed October 30, 2023.

American Heart Association. “Pacemaker”. www.heart.org, [Pacemaker | American Heart Association](#). Accessed October 30, 2023

Medicare National Coverage Determination: Refer to [NCD for Self-Contained Pacemaker Monitors \(20.8.2\)](#); (Accessed October 27, 2023)

Medicare National Coverage Determination: Refer to the [NCD for Transtelephonic Monitoring of Cardiac Pacemakers \(20.8.1.1\)](#); (Accessed October 27, 2023)

Policy History/Revision Information

Date	Summary of Changes
02/01/2024	Covered Benefits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Added language to clarify self-contained Pacemaker monitors may be covered when prescribed by the treating physician <i>for a member</i> with a cardiac Pacemaker

Date	Summary of Changes
	<p>Definitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added definition of “Pacemaker” Updated definition of “Implantable Automatic Defibrillator (ICD)” <p>Supporting Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated <i>References</i> section to reflect the most current information Archived previous policy version BIP017.N

Instructions for Use

Covered benefits are listed in three (3) sections: *Federal/State Mandated Regulations*, *State Market Plan Enhancements*, and *Covered Benefits*. All services must be medically necessary. Each benefit plan contains its own specific provisions for coverage, limitations, and exclusions as stated in the member’s Evidence of Coverage (EOC)/Schedule of Benefits (SOB). If there is a discrepancy between this policy and the member’s EOC/SOB, the member’s EOC/SOB provision will govern.